

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002003

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.05.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
09.05.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B60B15/24

Applicant
GOLF INNOVATIONS (UK) LTD

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:

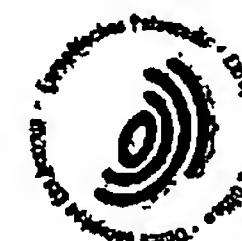


European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3018

Authorized Officer

Verkerk, E

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4344



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYInternational application No.
PCT/GB2004/002003

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002003

4. Independent claims 26, 27 and 30 claim the use of the wheel in a golf buggy, cart or trolley. Claim 29 claims the base as such for use in a golf course traversing vehicle. This use is not mentioned in D1 or D2 and is not obvious in the light of this prior art. The claims 26, 27, 29 and 30 are therefore novel and inventive.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002003**Box No. II Priority**

1. The following document has not been furnished:

copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, Inventive step or
Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-30
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	18-21,23,24,26,27,29,30
	No: Claims	1-17,22,25,28
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-30
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002003

Re Item V.

- 1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:

D1 : FR 502 138 A (JAKOBSEN,JENS PETER HENRIK) 5 May 1920 (1920-05-05)
 D2 : DE 298 15 209 U (SALVAGNO ROMY) 12 May 1999 (1999-05-12)
2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 28 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
 - 2.1 With regard to claim 1, document D1 discloses, see figure 1 and page 1, lines 9-20 (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

A vehicle wheel provided with a plurality of studs (b) which extend radially from a rim of the wheel, the studs (b) being substantially parabolic in cross-section in a plane normal to the axis of the rotation of the wheel and generally parallel to the rolling direction of the wheel.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not novel.
 - 2.2 With regard to claim 28, document D1 discloses, see figure 2 and 3 (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

A set of studs (b) for mounting on a vehicle wheel, each stud being substantially paraboloid.

The subject-matter of claim 28 is therefore not novel.
3. Dependent claims 2-17, 22, 25 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).
 - 3.1 The subject-matter of claims 2, 3 and 14 is disclosed in document D1, and is therefore not novel. The subject-matter of claims 4-13 and 25 relates to the problem of choice of dimensions and is obvious to the man skilled in the art; these claims are therefore not inventive. The subject-matter of claims 15-17 and 22 relates to the problem of attaching the studs to the rim if they are not integrally formed with the rim. The solution of a (continuous) tread band with studs is known from document D2, therefore are the claims 15-17 and 22 not inventive.